GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4212
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
STEAMER SERVICE IN THE BRAHAMPUTRA RIVER
Gohain Shri Rajen

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to drudge the river bed of the Brahamputra and re-start the steamer service in the interest of the general public and transporters of goods; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (b): The river Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 km) was declared as National Waterway in 1988. Various projects for providing and maintaining inland water transport infrastructure in this National Waterway are being implemented through Inland Waterways Authority of India. For maintaining channel for shipping and navigation, dredging is already being carried out during the low water season at the shallow patches in the waterway as per requirement and availability of dredgers. At present, one Hydraulic Surface Dredger (HSD) and one Cutter Suction Dredger (CSD) are deployed in the waterway. Four more CSD units and one HSD unit are under construction for deployment in the said waterway. Cargo vessels already ply between Kolkata/Haldia/Bangladesh and various locations of this National Waterway depending on availability of cargo. Various passenger ferry vessels are also operating in this waterways within Assam under regulation of State Government of Assam.